

UNITED NATIONS

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2 March 1965

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

COMMITTEE ON THE INTERNATIONAL
YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTSArgentina and Brazil: text proposed for inclusion
in the report of the Committee

The Committee discussed the decision formulated by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 6 (XX), operative paragraph 2, that the Committee should give "special thought to the possibility of holding an International Conference in 1968 to (i) review the progress which has been made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, (ii) evaluate the effectiveness of the methods and techniques used by the United Nations in the field of human rights and (iii) formulate and prepare a programme of further measures to be taken subsequent to the celebration of Human Rights Year;"

Bearing in mind the need to fulfil the above objectives, which it endorsed, the Committee recommends that the Commission on Human Rights should invite the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to

(a) Convene a meeting of governmental representatives, who are experts in human rights, for the purpose of giving effect to the aims set forth in resolution 6 (XX), operative paragraph 2, of the Commission on Human Rights;

(b) Such a meeting would be held during the twenty-third session of the General Assembly for a period of ----- weeks;

(c) In order that this meeting may fulfil its task properly, the Committee considers that (i) governmental representatives participating in it must be experts with a profound knowledge of human rights; (ii) its discussions must be conducted on a technical level in order to secure the lofty aims for which the meeting has been convened and criticisms of individual countries and policies must be avoided; and (iii) the meeting must be carefully and properly prepared, the task of assembling the basic documentation being entrusted to a selected group of experts;

(d) Arrangements for drawing up the agenda, the preparation of documents and other questions concerning the meeting should be entrusted to the Secretary-General and officials designated by him in consultation with the Commission on Human Rights or any other organ it may designate for this purpose;

(e) The resolutions of the 1968 meeting shall be transmitted to the General Assembly for consideration and adoption.

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COMMITTEE ON THE INTERNATIONAL
YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTSNetherlands: draft resolutionThe Committee on the International Year for Human Rights,

Having been requested by the Commission on Human Rights in resolution 6 (XX) to recommend a programme of measures and activities to be undertaken by Member States, the United Nations and specialized agencies in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the furtherance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Having given due attention to General Assembly resolution 1961 (XVIII) on the designation of 1968 as International Year for Human Rights,

Submits herewith its report and draws in particular attention to the recommendations contained therein, numbered I - .

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4 March 1965

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COMMITTEE ON THE INTERNATIONAL
YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTSArgentina and Ecuador: proposed text for inclusion
in the Committee's report

The Committee discussed the suggestion contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 940 (XXIV) that the United Nations should "consider, in connexion with arrangements for the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration in 1968, the preparation and publication of a history of the Declaration and other international instruments on human rights, with special reference to progress already achieved, current endeavours and work remaining to be done in the field of human rights and with a brief and objective account of the role of the United Nations in the process of decolonization".

Bearing in mind the objectives laid down in General Assembly resolution 1961 (XVIII) and resolution 6 (XX) of the Commission on Human Rights, and with a view to making a positive response to the suggestion of the Economic and Social Council, the Committee recommends the following:

1. The United Nations would publish a short "History of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other instruments on human rights" as a brochure available to the general public, schools, institutions, etc., which would be disseminated as widely as possible. The form and content of the brochure would be decided upon later.

2. The United Nations would publish, in collaboration with the specialized agencies concerned, a "World Report on Human Rights, 1967". This report would review the development of efforts to secure full respect for human rights in the national sphere and the progress achieved during the period 1945 - 1967. It would also contain an account of the work done by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and a general appraisal of it. The document would be prepared by the Secretariats of the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned.

The report would comprise the following sections:

(a) Introduction: in which the scope of the report and the general trends observed during the period 1945-1967 would be explained;

(b) Juridical section: in which there would be general references to the inclusion of human rights provisions in constitutions and laws, and to important legal decisions on human rights;

(c) A section devoted to education and the dissemination of the principles of the Universal Declaration: in which an account would be given of the efforts made through teaching in primary and secondary schools, universities, special courses, the use of information media, etc.;

(d) A section devoted to the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned (UNESCO, ILO, WHO, FAO) in the field of human rights.

3. The question of what still remains to be done with regard to human rights and possible supplementary measures, and the appraisals, should be left to the experts who will prepare the technical studies for submission to the international meeting in 1968.

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ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCHCOMMITTEE ON THE INTERNATIONAL
YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTSStatement made by the French delegation to the Committee on the
International Year for Human Rights on 5 March 1965

The French delegation must take a brief look back at the conditions under which the Committee's discussions on section E of the document prepared by the Working Group took place on Friday, 26 February, in order to clarify the legal nature of the conclusions reached on that occasion.

At the beginning of its session, the Committee decided to conduct its proceedings according to the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council; it also decided to examine the document prepared by its Working Group without voting and to confine itself to identifying the proposals on which there was a unanimous consensus of opinion and recording the various opinions expressed in the event of disagreement.

Under these conditions, a compromise text submitted by the delegations of Argentina and Brazil was examined. A number of changes made in it at the request, in particular, of the delegations of India and Costa Rica made it impossible for the French delegation to agree to that text.

It was then suggested that, despite that opposition, the text as amended constituted a recommendation by the Committee, and that the French delegation's position should be recorded elsewhere. This formula was also unacceptable to the French delegation.

It was thus clear that, in the absence of a consensus of opinion - that is, of a unanimous agreement - none of these formulae could be considered a formal decision of the Committee.

If the majority of the Committee had wished its view to prevail, it could have asked the Committee to change its procedure and resume normal voting, and could then have caused the Committee to take a decision by means of a vote.

Since the Committee's rules of procedure were not changed and no vote was taken it is clear that, whatever designation the Chairman of the Committee may have given them, the conclusions reached on examination of section E of the working paper are nothing more than a statement of the various positions adopted by the delegations members of the Committee.

The French delegation regrets the apparent disregard, particularly by the Chair, of elementary rules of procedure; it has no doubt that the Commission on Human Rights will know how to evaluate the circumstances in which the Committee's debates took place. It formally requests that the full text of its statements should be included in the Committee's report.
